

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

NEWS FLASHES

October 1,

1938

LOAN EXHIBITIONS: For the month of October, the loan galleries will be installed with a group of oil paintings, water colours and prints by five Colorado artists who call themselves "The Prospectors".

This group was organized in 1931 and since that time has exhibited in museums and galleries all over the United States. Each year a new exhibition is sent out and the interest in this organization has been widespread. They describe themselves thus; "A group of painters from such widely scattered homes as Newfoundland, New York, Pennsylvania and Indiana, we are happily settled and working under the shadow of the Front Range in Boulder, Colorado. Around us in the Boulder of today, is the representative life of the American small city, full of interest to the artist. The foothills rise in ever increasing strength towards the snowy peaks to the west of us, the rolling plains with their cottonwoods and silver canals lie to the east of us. We have around us the ghosts of the Mountain Men, the Indian tribes, and the intrepid settlers whose cabins may still be seen in a few places. We are near the ghost cities of the great mining days. In thus staking our claims, we are satisfied that we have hit pay dirt and we have the untiring, maybe unreasoning, hope that one day we will indeed make the big strike".

All of the painters have been seen in Kansas City before, either in the Mid-Western at the Art Institute or in shows at the Gallery, but this is the first time that the individual artist has been seen in a number of representations. Virginia True, who paints both landscapes and portraits, won the first prize in the 1935 Mid-Western with her "Wood-Chopper" and has received honorable mention at the Denver Art Museum. Her portraits are owned in Philadelphia, Indianapolis, Chicago, and Colorado.

G. Meux has received silver medals and honorable mentions in several Mid-Western shows for both her paintings and her black and whites. She is interested primarily in landscape and has exhibited in all important yearly shows in Canada and the United States. Muriel Sibell is best known for her watercolours and they have been seen often in Kansas City. She won the Watercolour Prize in the 1935 exhibition of Women Painters in New York. She teaches at Boulder and has made many costumes and stage designs. Of late she has been working in Colorado mining towns and her newest works will be seen in this exhibition.

Frances Hoar paints exclusively in watercolour and her entries have been consistent winners in the annual shows of the Denver Art Museum. She comes originally from Philadelphia and her work has been shown from coast to coast. Frederick C. Trucksess is essentially a mural painter but his canvases have won prizes in the Denver shows and those of the John Herron Art Institute of Indianapolis. An especially fine series of murals are in the University Theatre at Boulder.

This exhibition will open on Sunday, October 2, and continue through the month. It will afford an excellent opportunity to see an extensive display of the work of a group of artists from a neighboring state who have done much to contribute to the growth of a Mid-Western school of painting.

MASTERPIECE OF THE MONTH: The October Masterpiece is one of the most important acquisitions of the permanent collection since the opening of the Gallery. It is an Archaic Greek Head, dating from about 515 B.C. The appearance in the art market of even a fragment of archaic sculpture is an event of great moment, but when an opportunity is presented to acquire a complete head, the occasion assumes the utmost importance. With only minor fractures, our Head must rank as the most significant example of its date in America.

It is slightly under life size and came originally from a standing nude figure of the "Apollo" of "kouros" (youth) type and was perhaps set up as a votive offering or as a monument to a famous athlete. It is of fine grained, transparent Island marble and now has the warm, reddish tone acquired by sculpture buried for centuries in the ferric soil about Athens. There are traces of red pigment on the hair and the eyes and lips were undoubtedly also painted.

There are archaic traces in the handling of the hair, in the eyes and in the slight smile at the corners of the lip, that smile which gives these early figures their extraordinary eloquence and arresting vitality. The Greek sculptor of this period never attempted portraiture nor did he look upon the face as a medium for conveying human emotions. He was more concerned with the expression of an ideal rather than with realism, yet our Head has a most definite individuality as is the case with all the examples of this period in New York, Athens, and Munich. The unknown artist who carved this Head has achieved the utmost sensitivity in the modeling of the planes of the cheeks and for sheer beauty, the line of the profile of the cheek has never been excelled.

In our permanent collection of Classical Sculpture, which includes the important Grave Relief, the Phidian Head of a Woman, the Scopasian Head of Heracles, and the Boxers, this new Head becomes at once our outstanding representation of this rare art. Where it originally stood is not definitely known, but it is so at one in spirit with the Acropolis Maidens that one is safe in assuming that it once graced that flat mass of rock which still dominates the city of Athens and which boasts of the ruins of the Parthenon and the Erechtheum.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES: For the winter season, the series of Wednesday Evening lectures will be devoted to a survey of Italian Painting from its earliest beginnings in the 13th century in the works of Cimabue and Giotto to the glorious climax of Tiepolo at the end of the seventeen hundreds. It is by far the most important school of painting that developed in our modern times and all subsequent painting owes a great debt to it.

The entire series will be given by the Director, Mr. Gardner, who spent the summer in Italy restudying the examples in public museums and private collections. The introductory lecture, and it will mark the first Wednesday Evening opening of the Gallery for the winter season, will be given on October 19th and will provide a background for the formation of the school. Byzantine paintings and mosaics and the work of Margaretone di Arezzo, Coppo di Marcovaldo, and Pietro Cavallino will be discussed.

The subject for the second lecture on Wednesday, October 26th, will be the contribution of Cimabue and Giotto. The fine examples by these artists in the Uffizi and the Louvre, in San Croce in Florence, San Francesco in Assisi and the Arena Chapel in Padua were all studied to provide interesting material.

This series promises to be the most interesting since the opening of the Gallery and it is hoped that a large number will take advantage of the opportunity to acquire a knowledge of this important school which is so necessary for a complete understanding of all painting in the Gallery collection. The Gallery is open from seven until ten and there is no admission charge to the collections or to the lectures, which start at eight P. M. and last for an hour.

RADIO BROADCASTS: Through the courtesy and cooperation of Station KCMO, a series of twelve broadcasts on objects in the permanent collection of the Gallery will be given over that station. The scripts are being written by Miss Hughes and Mr. Albert Gardner of the Staff and they will dramatize the fascinating and historical background that produced the various paintings and objects to be considered. The first presentation will be given on Tuesday evening, October 4th, at 9:15 P.M. and the subsequent dramatizations will be given at the same hour on following Tuesdays. As far as is known, this is the first time that such a series has been broadcast on an art gallery and they should prove not only enjoyable but educational also.

Tune in every Tuesday Evening at 9:15 P. M., 1370 Kilocycles,

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and enjoy these stories about your Gallery collection. It will be appreciated if you will call Station KCMO or the Gallery to tell us if you are finding these broadcasts instructive and worthwhile.

GALLERY CHANGES: Gallery XVI has been hung with a series of Whistler Prints from the permanent collection. This will include the fine charcoal drawing "Self-Portrait", the Thames Set, of which the Gallery owns a perfectly matched series, and a selection of his delicate and characteristic lithographs.

Gallery XIII has been installed with a selection of drawings by French artists from the permanent collection. This is the largest group in the department of drawings and includes examples from the earliest period of a native school, the 16th century, many important sheets from the 18th and 19th centuries, and some work of contemporary artists.

For the month of October the second in the series of Japanese Print exhibitions will be shown in Gallery XXIV. The present exhibition is designed to show the development of the print in the second phase of its history. The first exhibition consisted of the so-called "Primitives". We now show prints of the following period which is primarily important for the new developments in technique introduced by Harunobu whose inventions made possible the use of many colours. Three artists are represented in the exhibition: Harunobu, his pupil Koryusai, and Shunsho. The best work of these three artists is marked by their skillful use of the new technique which gave them unlimited ranges of colour to employ. Most of their best work was done during the Meiwa Period (1764-1772)

SATURDAY CLASSES FOR CHILDREN: The winter term of Saturday morning classes for children will start on October 15th. Enrollment will begin at ten o'clock Saturday, October 8th, and continue through the week. The only charge is an enrollment fee of \$1.00 and the classes are open to all children over seven years of age. The program will include sketch, clay modeling, and crafts, and the puppetry class which was so successful in the summer will be continued.

The marionette group this winter will be limited to thirty boys and girls of fifteen years or over. A new type of larger and more efficient doll will be constructed, to fit the splendid new marionette stage, and a new play based on the life of "Old Parr, has been written for the class.

DRAWING FOR FUN will also open on Saturday, October 15th, at two-thirty, with new and interesting activities. The Game Tray, too, is available every Saturday. No enrollment is necessary for either of these activities and all children who visit the Gallery on Saturday are invited to participate.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS: An interesting series of Sunday afternoon concerts has been planned again this year for the Atkins Auditorium. The first, at three-thirty on October 2nd, is a delightful program of French music presented by Miss Ethel Kelley, pianist, and Miss Elizabeth Wilkinson, soprano. The second, on October 9th, will be given by Mr. Thruston Johnson, of the first violin section of the Kansas City Philharmonic, and on the third Sunday, October 16th, Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota will present its monthly concert. We are particularly happy to have this group back again, presenting its fourth season of monthly Gallery concerts.

These Sunday afternoon programs are open to Gallery visitors without charge and have become an important part of the Gallery's activities.

CALENDAR
C A L E N D A R

Sun., Oct. 2 - 3:30 - Auditorium - Concert
Tues., " 4 - 9:15 - Station KCMO - Gallery broadcast
Sat., " 8 -10:00 - Enrollment for Saturday classes begin.
Sun., " 9 - 3:30 - Auditorium - Concert
Tues. " 11 - 9:15 - Station KCMO - Gallery broadcast
Sat., " 15 -10:00 - Saturday classes for children begin.
Sun., " 16 - 3:30 - Auditorium - Concert
✓ Tues., " 18 - 9:15 - Station KCMO - Gallery broadcast
Wed., " 19 - 8:00 - Auditorium - Lecture "Introduction and Back
ground of Italian Painting" - Mr. Gardner
Tues., " 25 - 9:15 - Station KCMO - Gallery broadcast
Wed., " 26 - 8:00 - Auditorium - Lecture - "Cimabue and Giotto"
Mr. Gardner

William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art
Kansas City, Missouri

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